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# Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



VOLUME 62

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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L A T E   N E W S

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Excessive rains, which have continued into the picking season, and heavy insect infestation this year have resulted in recent downward revisions in all 1950-51 cotton crop estimates for South Brazil. Estimates of the South Brazil crops, originally placed as high as 1,200,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), have been revised downward to between 875,000 and 950,000 bales, but still remain above the 1949-50 crop of around 800,000 bales. Sao Paulo usually accounts for all except 90,000 to 125,000 bales of the South Brazil total.

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The embargo on exports of Mexican cotton, reimposed on March 14, 1951, because of depleted stocks, is expected to be removed soon after the new crop begins to arrive on the market early in July.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to those needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.



NOTE: Tables accompanying the following estimates of world dried apple, peach, apricot and pear production will be found on Pages 364 to 371.

#### WORLD 1950 DRIED APPLE PACK CONSIDERABLY BELOW AVERAGE 1/

The 1950 preliminary estimate of dried apple production in the 5 leading commercial producing countries is 12,200 short tons compared with 14,300 tons in 1949 and 10,800 tons in 1948. The estimate is only slightly more than half the 10-year (1939-48) average of 22,200 tons and the 5-year (1944-48) average of 19,000 tons. It was the smallest pack in 25 years. The production in all countries but the Union of South Africa was below that of last year. The Union of South Africa is a very minor producer and of little or no importance in the international trade in this commodity.

The world production of dried apples appears to be declining in these countries due to high production costs, good demand for fresh fruit or for canning and lack of consumer interest. The production in Canada this season was insufficient to meet domestic requirements. The United States production was the second smallest in the past quarter of a century according to Trade sources. The dried apple pack in the Southern Hemisphere countries is expected to continue at the present low levels.

The United States exports of dried apples during the 1950-51 season to February 1, 1951 totalled only 871 short tons, of which 448 tons went to Germany, 231 to Sweden and 77 tons to the Netherlands. In the entire previous season 1,527 tons were exported. The small United States exports reflect a small pack and a lack of interest by foreign buyers.

#### WORLD DRIED PEACH PRODUCTION SMALLEST IN YEARS

The 1950 preliminary estimate of dried peach production in the United States, Argentina, Australia, Chile and the Union of South Africa, the leading commercial producing countries is revised upward to 12,200 short tons compared with 20,100 tons in 1949 and 13,800 tons in 1948. The estimate is only about 48 percent of the 10-year (1939-48) average and the same percentage of the 5-year (1944-48) average. Production was the smallest in 25 years. The 1950 world pack of dried peaches and apples for the first time in history were of the same size and, by a further coincidence, the smallest.

1/ This and other dried fruit production estimates in this issue of Foreign Crops and Markets are by Walter R. Schreiber, and are based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports. More extensive statements will soon be published as Foreign Agriculture Circulars obtainable from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

There has been no change in the estimate of foreign production released on October 30, 1950; however, according to Trade sources the United States pack turned out to be a little larger than that forecast in October. The United States production was the smallest in many years.

The United States export of dried peaches is running well ahead of that of 1949-50 when only 756 short tons were exported. The exports this season to January 31 have totalled 1,507 tons, of which Germany was the destination for 758 tons, Sweden 375 tons, Canada 174 tons and the Netherlands 72 tons.

#### WORLD 1950 DRIED APRICOT OUTPUT SLIGHTLY BELOW AVERAGE

The 1950 preliminary estimate of dried apricot production in the United States, Iran, Australia and other leading commercial producing countries is 26,200 short tons (revised) compared with 23,300 tons in 1949 20,700 tons in 1948. The estimate is 16 percent below the 10-year (1939-48) average of 31,300 tons and 9 percent below the 5-year (1944-48) average of 28,800 tons. A sharp upward revision over the October estimate is reported for Spain, a very minor one for Australia and a small one for the United States.

There are no stocks available in the Southern Hemisphere countries. The Spanish pack is reported to be about sold out. No information is available on the stocks remaining in Iran and Syria. On the basis of available information it appears likely at this time that only Iran will have a carry-over.

Preliminary reports from the Southern Hemisphere countries where harvesting and drying of the 1951 crop of apricots is now underway indicate production will be smaller than last year. The pack in Spain will be governed largely by the availability of tin plate for pulping plants.

#### WORLD 1950 DRIED PEAR PRODUCTION FAR BELOW AVERAGE

The 1950 preliminary estimate of dried pear production in the 4 leading commercial producing countries, the United States, Argentina, Australia and the Union of South Africa is revised downward to 2,400 short tons, compared with 3,200 tons in 1949 and 2,700 tons in 1948. The estimate is only 39 percent of the 5 and 10-year averages of 6,100 tons. The estimate is the smallest in 27 years.

APPLES, DRIED: Estimated commercial production in specified countries,  
1950 with comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Australia	Canada	New Zealand	Union of South Africa	Foreign total	United States	World total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
<u>Average</u>							
1939-48	1,500	4,000	<u>1</u> /	200	5,700 <u>2</u> /	16,500	22,200
1944-48	1,900	2,800	200	100	5,000	14,500	19,500
<u>Annual</u>							
1944	2,300	6,700	200	200	9,400	17,000	26,400
1945	2,000	800	200	100	3,100	14,500	17,600
1946	2,000	2,200	200	100	4,500	18,300	22,800
1947	1,500	3,300	300	100	5,200	15,000	20,200
1948	1,800	1,000	200	100	3,100	7,700	10,800
1949 <u>4</u> /	700	1,800	200	100	2,800	11,500	14,300
1950 <u>4</u> /	300	1,100 <u>3</u> /	100	100	1,600 <u>3</u> /	10,600 <u>5</u> /	12,200 <u>3</u> /

1/ No production prior to 1944.

2/ Excluding New Zealand.

3/ Revised.

4/ Preliminary.

5/ Trade estimate--not official.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U. S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information.



## UNITED STATES: Exports of dried apples

(Crop year, August-July)

Country	Average		Annual			
	1940/41- 1949/50	1945/46- 1949/50	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51 <u>1/</u>	
	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>
Denmark	-	-	-	8	<u>2/</u>	
France	14	25	0	0	1	
Germany	-	-	-	382	448	
Italy	-	-	10	1	3	
Netherlands	349	43	18	478	77	
Norway	57	60	7	43	27	
Sweden	396	284	0	226	231	
Switzerland	-	-	11	78	18	
United Kingdom	2,533	1,459	0	0	0	
Canada	79	139	3	3	0	
Other	961	706	453	308	66	
Total	<u>3,734</u>	<u>2,716</u>	<u>502</u>	<u>1,527</u>	<u>871</u>	

1/ 6 months, August-January 1951.2/ Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.



PEACHES, dried: Estimated commercial production in specified countries, 1950 with comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Argentina	Australia	Chile	Union of South Africa	Foreign total	United States	World total
	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>
<u>Average</u>							
1939-48	2,700	500	1,000	800	5,000	20,300	25,300
1944-48	3,400	500	900	900	5,700	19,900	25,600
<u>Annual</u>							
1944	2,500	500	1,000	1,300	5,300	26,700	32,000
1945	3,200	600	800	900	5,500	22,800	28,300
1946	4,300	500	800	800	6,400	25,000	31,400
1947	3,500	400	900	900	5,700	17,100	22,800
1948	3,300	700	900	800	5,700	8,100	13,800
1949 <u>1/</u>	3,300	400	1,000	1,100	5,800	14,300	20,100
1950 <u>1/</u>	3,300	300	900	1,000	5,500	6,700 <u>3/</u>	12,200 <u>2/</u>

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Revised.

3/ Trade estimate, not official.

OFAR, USDA. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research or other information.

UNITED STATES: Exports of peaches, dried, to specified countries,  
1950-51 with comparisons 1/

Country of destination	Average		Annual				
	:1940/41-:1945/46-:		1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	2/
	:1949/50	:1949/50					
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Belgium	98	46	66	30	1		0
France	25	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	0	1		0
Germany	231	461	<u>3/</u>	2,303	3		758
Italy	125	159	20	96	150		54
Netherlands	34	68	4	30	302		72
Sweden	108	155	0	0	176		375
Switzerland	2	3	0	2	15		8
United Kingdom	3,126	1,864	44	0	0		0
Other Europe	28	35	24	1	0		2
Total Europe	3,777	2,791	158	2,462	648		1,269
Canada	254	327	79	16	14		174
Other countries	901	796	1,185	139	94		64
Grand total	4,932	3,914	1,422	2,617	756		1,507

1/ Crop year basis, July-June.

2/ 7 months, July - January 1951.

3/ Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

APRICOTS, DRIED: Estimated commercial production in specified countries, 1950 with comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	:Argen- :tina :and :Chile	:Australia:	:Iran	:Spain	:South :Africa:	:Syria	:Foreign :total	:United :States	:World :total
	:Short : tons	:Short : tons	:Short : tons	:Short : tons	:Short : tons	:Short : tons	:Short : tons	:Short : tons	:Short : tons
<u>Average</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
1939-48	: 300	: 1,600	: 7,100	: 3,300	: 600	: 700	: 13,600	: 17,700	: 31,300
1944-48	: 500	: 1,400	: 5,900	: 4,000	: 500	: 700	: 13,000	: 15,800	: 28,800
<u>Annual</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
1944	: 400	: 2,100	: 9,300	: 9,600	: 900	: 800	: 23,100	: 25,600	: 48,700
1945	: 700	: 900	: 3,900	: 2,600	: 700	: 600	: 9,400	: 7,800	: 17,200
1946	: 300	: 1,500	: 8,200	: 2,200	: 100	: 600	: 12,900	: 18,000	: 30,900
1947	: 600	: 1,400	: 4,400	: 3,900	: 300	: 500	: 11,100	: 15,200	: 26,300
1948	: 500	: 1,100	: 3,800	: 1,500	: 400	: 1,000	: 8,300	: 12,400	: 20,700
1949 <u>2/</u>	: 300	: 1,200	: 6,400	: 400	: 300	: 500	: 9,100	: 14,200	: 23,300
1950 <u>2/</u>	: 400	: 1,200 <u>1/</u>	: 6,900	: 2,900 <u>1/</u>	: 300	: 600	: 12,300 <u>1/</u>	: 13,900 <u>3/</u>	: 26,200 <u>1/</u>

1/ Revised.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Trade estimate--not official.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U. S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information.

## UNITED STATES: Exports of dried apricots

(Crop year, August-July)

Country	Average		Annual			
	1940/41- 1949/50	1945/46- 1949/50	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	<u>1/</u>
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	
Belgium	448	744	1,082	884	307	
Denmark	7	14	17	49	2	
France	37	26	39	65	2	
Germany	121	177	1,418	51	129	
Italy	68	74	19	30	18	
Netherlands	67	134	166	307	247	
Norway	33	65	5	30	25	
Sweden	60	55	0	0	3	
Switzerland	51	101	112	394	141	
United Kingdom	1,700	7	1	1	0	
U.S.S.R.	38	39	0	0	0	
Canada	442	335	147	54	409	
Mexico	15	20	7	4	<u>2/</u>	
Newfoundland and Labrador	102	107	181	0	0	
Brazil	56	83	4	115	22	
Netherlands East Indies	45	81	98	33	0	
Other	<u>731</u>	<u>366</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>70</u>	
Total	4,021	2,428	3,431	2,094	1,375	

1/ 7 months, July - January.2/ Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.



PEARS, DRIED: Estimated commercial production in specified countries, 1950 with comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Argentina	Australia	Union of South Africa	Foreign total	United States	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
<u>Average</u>						
1939-48	1,100	300	700	2,100	4,000	6,100
1944-48	1,500	400	600	2,500	3,600	6,100
<u>Annual</u>						
1944	1,000	500	500	2,000	4,000	6,000
1945	900	400	1,000	2,300	5,400	7,700
1946	2,700	300	300	3,300	4,600	7,900
1947	1,900	400	600	2,900	2,800	5,700
1948	1,000	200	500	1,700	1,000	2,700
1949 <u>1/</u>	200	400	300	900	2,300	3,200
1950 <u>1/</u>	600	100	400 <u>2/</u>	1,100 <u>2/</u>	1,300 <u>3/</u>	2,400 <u>2/</u>

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Revised.

3/ Trade estimate--not official.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information.

## UNITED STATES: Exports of dried pears

(Crop year, September-August)

Country	Average		Annual			
	1940/41- 1949/50	1945/46- 1949/50	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51 1/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Austria	2	3	0	0	16	0
Belgium	36	19	1	37	1	0
France	26	52	43	0	219	0
Italy	61	24	21	9	9	4
Netherlands	35	69	12	0	288	59
Sweden	53	36	0	0	177	227
Switzerland	27	38	26	13	24	2
United Kingdom	464	13	0	0	0	0
Canada	58	71	5	3	19	18
Others	452	246	283	317	139	169
Total	1,214	571	391	379	892	479

1/ 5 months, September - January, 1951.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

The production in Argentina was about 3 times that of the previous year, Australia about one quarter of the previous year, while the Union of South Africa was up slightly. The United States pack was only slightly more than half that of 1949.

The export movement of dried pears from the foreign producing countries was very small in comparison to that of other years. Australia exported 14 tons of which 9 were to New Zealand and the balance to various other destinations in very small lots. The United States exports from the start of the season to February 1, 1951 totalled only 479 tons of which 227 tons were to Sweden, 59 tons to the Netherlands, and 18 tons to Canada. The 1949-50 season total was only 892 tons and in 1948-49 the total was only 379 tons.

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## COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

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### AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND SUPPLIES

#### U. S. FARM MACHINERY EXPORTS 16 PERCENT LOWER IN 1950

United States farm machinery and tractor exports totaled \$350 million in calendar year 1950 compared with \$418 million in 1949, a reduction of 16.2 percent. The decline was due not so much to a shortage of supplies as to lower world demand, especially in the first half of the year. Urgent needs in most agricultural countries resulting from the war had been filled; mechanization programs in several countries had been virtually completed; and European countries producing farm machinery were able to supply most of their own needs as well as to export to their overseas territories and elsewhere.

Exports to the European Recovery Program countries (valued at \$42.5 million) were one-third lower than in 1949 and exports to the ERP dependent overseas territories (valued at \$27.0 million) were over one-fourth lower. Exports to all other countries (valued at \$280.9 million) were lower than 1949 by only 12 percent.

The decline in exports to the ERP countries was greatest in the case of the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, and Denmark. Exports to the United Kingdom and France were down 59 percent from 1949. On the other hand, exports to Turkey, Greece, Italy, and Sweden were larger in 1950. Exports to the British dependent overseas territories were less than one-half as large as in 1949. Exports to other dependent overseas territories of ERP countries were lower also, with the exception of Algeria and Tunisia.



Canada uses the largest amount of United States farm machinery of any foreign country and its purchases account for about two-fifths of United States farm machinery exports. In 1950 exports to Canada were valued at \$131.9 million, down 18 percent from 1949. Mexico took the second largest amount valued at \$23.6 million, about one-fourth more than in 1949. Exports to Brazil were valued at \$21.4 million. Exports to Argentina, valued at \$16.6 million, were over 5 times as large as in 1949 because more dollar exchange was made available for purchases of farm machinery. Other important users of United States farm machinery were Australia, Venezuela, Colombia, Cuba, and the Union of South Africa. Exports to Chile, Spain, and the Union of South Africa were much lower in 1950 than in the preceding year, partly because of dollar shortages.

#### COMPOSITION OF U. S. FARM MACHINERY EXPORTS

The general composition of United States farm machinery exports has not changed significantly during the past 5 years although exports of individual items have fluctuated widely. The total value of exports increased steadily from 1946 to 1949 and then declined in 1950, but the proportion of tractors, implements and equipment, and spare parts was remarkably steady as is shown in the following tabulation:

#### U. S. exports of farm machinery, by calendar years, 1946-1950, inclusive

Item	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
	(Millions of dollars)				
Tractors.....	82.6	157.9	198.4	210.3	172.2
Implements and equipment.....	33.6	66.8	87.0	98.6	82.4
Spare parts.....	41.1	84.0	93.3	109.3	95.8
Total.....	157.3	308.7	378.7	418.2	350.4
	(Percent of total)				
Tractors.....	52.5	51.2	52.4	50.3	49.2
Implements and equipment.....	21.3	21.6	23.0	23.6	23.5
Spare parts.....	26.2	27.2	24.6	26.1	27.3
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

#### TYPES OF U.S. FARM MACHINERY EXPORTED TO ERP COUNTRIES

Exports of crawler tractors to the European Recovery Program areas were nearly one-fifth less in 1950 than in 1949, based on values, with most of the reduction occurring in the smaller sizes. Exports of row-type wheel tractors were less than two-fifths as great as in 1949, but exports of other wheel types declined only one-fifth with the 45 and over belt-horsepower size showing a small increase. Exports of implements and equipment to ERP areas were about three-fifths as large in 1950 and exports of spare parts were over three-fourths as large.



Large declines occurred in exports of dairy equipment, plows, cultivators, mowers, hayrakes, pick-up balers, threshers, and corn shellers and other separators.

### TOBACCO AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS

#### CUBA'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS DECLINE; CONSUMPTION, EXPORTS AND STOCKS INCREASE

A preliminary estimate of Cuba's 1950-51 tobacco crop places the total production at 33 percent below the postwar record harvest established last season, according to J. L. Martinez, American Embassy, Havana. Imports of tobacco and tobacco products during January-September 1950 were 17 percent below the corresponding 1949 period. Consumption of tobacco products in Cuba during 1950 set a new record level. Unmanufactured tobacco exports were slightly higher than in 1949. Stocks of leaf as of December 31, 1950 were 28 percent above stocks on the same 1949 date.

The country's 1950-51 leaf harvest is tentatively estimated at 72 million pounds. This corresponds to the 1949-50 record harvest of 93.6 million pounds and 53.3 million in 1948. The anticipated 1950-51 production is 12 percent above the 64.3 million pounds set by the Cuban Government for production in 1950-51 and ensuing crop years.

During the first 9 months (January-September) of 1950 Cuba imported 10,086,000 packages of cigarettes, 1,067 pounds of chewing tobacco and 123 pounds of smoking tobacco. This compares with imports for the first 9 months of 1949 of 12,138,000 packages of cigarettes, 1,303 pounds of chewing tobacco and 170 pounds of smoking tobacco. No leaf was imported during the first 9 months of 1950.

Consumption of cigarettes during 1950 totaled 8,359 million pieces, of which 8,082 million pieces were domestic and 277 million were imported. Cigar consumption totaled 575 million pieces and smoking tobacco 151,000 pounds. Consumption of cigarettes in 1949 totaled 8,258 million pieces of which 7,944 million were domestic and 314 million were imported. Cigar consumption totaled 546 million pieces, and smoking tobacco 169,000 pounds.

Unmanufactured tobacco exports during 1950 totaled 31.8 million pounds as compared to 31.2 million in 1949. Cigar exports were slightly lower in 1950 with a total of 20.4 million pieces as compared to 21.3 million cigars in 1949. The United States was chief outlet for Cuba's tobacco taking 23.7 million pounds or 75 percent of all unmanufactured tobacco exports and 11.3 million or 55 percent of all 1950 cigar exports. Other countries taking tobacco exports from Cuba included: Spain, France, Uruguay, the Netherlands.

Leaf stocks as of December 31, 1950 were reported at about 115 million pounds as compared to 90 million pounds on the corresponding date in 1949.

PHILIPPINE TOBACCO PRODUCTION, MANUFACTURE  
AND IMPORTS HIGHER; EXPORTS LOWER

The Philippine Republic's 1950-51 tobacco production is preliminarily estimated at 21 percent above 1949-50 and 46 percent above 1948-49 according to Merrill W. Abbey, Agricultural Attache, and M. Belisario, American Embassy, Manila. Output of manufactured tobacco during January-October 1950 was substantially above the outturn during the corresponding period of 1949. Imports of leaf tobacco during 1950 were many times greater than the 1949 level. Exports of leaf during 1950 were 27 percent below shipments in 1949.

The country's 1950-51 tobacco production is tentatively placed at 70.5 million pounds from 140,800 acres. This corresponds to the 1949-50 estimate of 58.2 million pounds from 118,500 acres and the 1948-49 harvest of 48.3 million from 95,700 acres.

Factory output of manufactured tobacco products during the first 10 months of 1950 consisted of 6,318.8 million cigarettes, 78.6 million cigars, 463,641 pounds of smoking tobacco, and 373,391 pounds of chewing tobacco. During the corresponding period of 1949 the output was 1,512 million cigarettes, 76.8 million cigars, 331,063 pounds of smoking tobacco, and 248,456 pounds of chewing tobacco.

Leaf imports during 1950 totaled 28.8 million pounds as compared to only 793,656 pounds in 1949 and 97,002 pounds in 1948. This sharp increase in leaf imports resulted primarily from governmental restriction on importation of tobacco products and the encouragement of the domestic manufacture of products. In addition to leaf, the Philippine Republic imported 5.6 million pounds of cigarettes, 242,506 pounds of chewing tobacco, 92,593 pounds of smoking tobacco, 11,000 cigars and 388,110 pounds of other tobacco products.

The United States supplies over 99 percent of the cigarettes and smoking tobacco and all of the leaf, cigars, chewing tobacco and other tobacco products imported during 1950. Hong Kong, China and Canada were the other main sources of tobacco products during 1950.

Leaf exports during 1950 totaled 8.1 million pounds compared with 11.2 million pounds in 1949. Spain was the most important export outlet followed by French Indochina, Belgium and the United States. In addition to leaf the Philippine Republic also exported 46,297 pounds of cigars and a small quantity of cigarettes.

COSTA RICA'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION LOWER;  
LEAF IMPORTS AND STOCKS HIGHER

Costa Rica's 1950-51 tobacco harvest is preliminarily estimated at 24 percent below 1949-50 according to E. L. Tanner, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, San Jose. Leaf imports during 1950 were 28 percent above 1949.



The country's 1950-51 leaf harvest is tentatively estimated at 2.4 million pounds from 3,390 acres. This corresponds to the 1949-50 harvest of 3.1 million pounds from 3,400 acres and the 1948-49 total of 2.2 million from 2,725 acres. About 92 percent of the 1950-51 production forecast for Costa Rica is sun-cured leaf and 8 percent flue-cured. This compares with 97 percent sun-cured and 3 percent flue-cured in 1949-50. Flue-cured leaf was first commercially produced in 1948-49. Costa Rica's Government is attempting to develop a self-sufficiency in tobacco production and at present is stressing improvement of leaf quality. Results of the concentrated efforts are shown by the exceptionally high grade leaf produced this year, the quality of which reportedly compares favorably with leaf imports from the United States.

Leaf imports during 1950 totaled 80,082 pounds as compared to 62,586 pounds in 1949 and 77,591 pounds in 1948. The United States supplied 71,861 pounds or 90 percent of Costa Rica's 1950 leaf imports. Turkey supplied 7,910 pounds and Cuba the remaining 311 pounds in 1950.

Cigarette imports for 1950 totaled 78,645 pounds or 33 percent below the 116,608 pounds imported in 1949 and 64 percent below the 215,645 pounds in 1948. The United States supplied 78,131 pounds or 99 percent with Cuba and Curacao supplying the remaining 1 percent. In addition to cigarettes Costa Rica imported 4,995 pounds of cigars most of which was supplied by Cuba, and 968 pounds of smoking tobacco most of which was supplied by the United States.

Leaf stocks reportedly on hand as of December 31, 1950 totaled 2.6 million pounds, or 38 percent above the 1.9 million pounds on hand December 31, 1949. However, they were still 28 percent below the desired 2-year supply of 3.5 million pounds.

(Continued on Page 395)

#### GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

##### CURRENT PHILIPPINE RICE MARKET REVIEWED

The 1950-51 Philippine rice crop was reduced from the early season forecast of 5,870 million pounds of rough rice because of unfavorable weather, according to Merrill W. Abbey, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Manila. The harvest is now estimated at about 2 percent less than the preceding year's record crop, or at approximately 5,625 million pounds of rough rice compared with 5,745 million pounds in 1949-50.

Producers planted a larger acreage than in the year before, but typhoons in August, and particularly in October, caused extensive damage to the crop. Civil disturbances are believed also to have resulted in some reduction in the harvest.

PHILIPPINES: Rice acreage and production, averages  
1935-36/44-45, annual 1948-49/50-51

Year	Acreage	Yield per acre	Production	
			Rough	In terms of milled
	1,000 acres	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Average:				
1935-36/39-40.....	4,852	973	4,719.5	3,304
1940-41/44-45.....	5,265	940	4,950.0	3,465
1948-49.....	5,347	1,027	5,492.2	3,845
1948-50.....	5,471	1,050	5,745.2	4,022
1950-51 <u>1</u> /.....	5,745	979	5,626.0	3,938

1/ Unofficial estimates.

Compiled from official sources, except as noted.

Rice imports during 1950 totaled only 11 million pounds of milled rice compared with 321 million pounds in the year before, and were the smallest since World War II. Reduced import requirements during the year are credited to the record 1949-50 production and relatively large carry-over stocks at the beginning of the season. All imports came from Thailand, normally the principal source for Philippine rice imports.

PHILIPPINES: Milled rice imports by country of origin,  
average 1935-39, annual 1946-50

Country	Average 1935-39	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
United States...	<u>1</u> /	182	217	0	126	0
Burma.....	0	0	0	9	43	0
Ecuador.....	0	18	20	51	41	0
Egypt.....	0	0	0	16	24	0
Indochina.....	76	0	0	0	0	0
Mexico.....	0	0	0	22	0	0
Thailand.....	36	109	39	145	87	11
Other countries:	5	4	0	22	0	0
Total.....	117	313	<u>2</u> / 276	265	321	11

1/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 2/ Of this volume, 128 million pounds were reexported, leaving net imports of 148 million pounds.

Compiled from Bureau of the Census and Statistics and data of NARIC.



Wholesale prices during the week ended March 10 were quoted at from \$8.50 to \$8.79 per 100 pounds, or at approximately the same level as quotations since January, when prices for the comparable grade dropped from \$10.33 to approximately \$8.50 per 100 pounds. Prices to producers during the week ended March 10 at from \$4.99 to \$5.14 per 100 pounds were only slightly higher than prices during January and February quotations of from \$4.68 to \$4.94 per 100 pounds.

PHILIPPINES: Rice prices, per 100 pounds, week ended  
March 10, 1951, with comparisons

Date	Native Macan milled ex-warehouse Manila		NARIC imported	Rough rice delivered Cabanatuan
	No. 1	No. 2		
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
<u>1950 - first quarter</u>				
January - High.....	9.72	9.52	7.49	5.24
- Low.....	9.11	8.91	7.49	4.64
February- High.....	9.31	9.11	7.49	5.04
- Low.....	9.11	8.91	7.49	4.94
March - High.....	9.31	9.11	7.49	5.04
- Low.....	7.69	7.49	7.49	4.54
<u>Fourth Quarter</u>				
October - High.....	10.53	10.33	9.98	6.19
- Low.....	9.31	8.91	7.30	5.67
November- High.....	10.33	9.92	9.98	6.19
- Low.....	10.12	9.72	9.98	4.68
December- High.....	10.33	9.92	9.98	4.73
- Low.....	10.12	9.72	9.98	4.19
<u>1951</u>				
January - High.....	10.33	9.92	9.98	4.93
- Low.....	8.30	8.10	9.98	4.68
February- High.....	8.71	8.50	9.98	4.94
- Low.....	8.30	8.10	9.98	4.68
March 5-10 High.....	8.79	8.59	9.98	5.14
- Low.....	8.50	8.30	9.98	4.99

Daily Market Report, Bureau of Commerce, Philippine Government.

FAO SCHEDULES RICE  
MEETINGS IN INDONESIA

Two technical meetings of far-reaching importance to the rice-eating peoples of Asia will be held at Bogor, Indonesia, during the period April 9 to 19, according to an announcement of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The scheduled meetings involve the

Rice Breeders' Working Party and the Working Party on Fertilizers, units of the International Rice Commission, and are aimed at increasing rice production through the development of better varieties, the use of better seed, and the use of more organic and inorganic fertilizers.

The International Rice Commission is an arm of FAO with the function of developing and improving the rice economy of the world. The Bogor meeting will be the first for the Working Party on Fertilizers, which was established by the Commission a year ago. The Rice Breeders' Working Party held its first meeting in Rangoon, Burma, last February.

The Governments of Burma, Ceylon, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, France, India, United Kingdom, and United States are members of the International Rice Commission, and the Supreme Command for the Allied Powers in Japan has been invited. All have appointed technical representatives to the Plant Breeders' Working Party and the Working Party on Fertilizers.

Information regarding the problems and objectives of these committees is available in an 8-page resume, FAO Fact Sheet, No. 1, Work of the International Rice Commission on World Rice Problems and Progress Toward Solutions, April 2, 1951. This may be obtained by writing to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

#### GRAIN ACREAGE IN THE NETHERLANDS SMALLER

Breadgrain acreage in the Netherlands is unusually small this year, according to preliminary reports. Wheat acreage, winter and spring together, is forecast at about 200,000 acres, compared with about 235,000 acres harvested in 1950 and the prewar (1935-39) average of 333,000 acres. Rye acreage is forecast at about 375,000 acres, a reduction of approximately 15 percent from the 1950 acreage.

Weather conditions did not favor sowing of winter grains, with prolonged wet weather and extremely high water tables in many sections of the country retarding seeding, as well as holding up harvesting of the late 1950 crops. Below-average winter temperatures impeded field work, and the condition of winter grains was generally unfavorable at latest report.

About 10 percent of the winter wheat acreage was reported plowed up because of water damage. Extensive acreage losses were also ascribed to frost damage, although informed sources do not agree that the loss was significant. Water damage to rye was far less than that to wheat, since rye is grown mainly on higher land. About 5 percent of the winter barley acreage sustained damage, according to reports.



Intersowing of poor winter wheat fields with spring wheat is expected to be larger than normal because of new governmental regulations affecting barley and oats. A recent announcement was made fixing prices for barley and oats, with a system of obligatory deliveries to Government agents. This move was said to be intended to stimulate wheat growing in clay-soil regions and to discourage growing barley and oats in such areas. The relatively wide spread between wheat prices and feed grain prices would, under normal conditions, tend to increase the wheat acreage.

### FATS AND OILS

#### U.S. IMPORTS OF OLIVE OIL IN 1950 LARGEST IN 20 YEARS

Edible olive oil imports into the United States in 1950 totaled nearly 40,000 short tons. Roughly 4 times the volume in 1949, this was the largest tonnage imported since 1930 when 46,482 tons came into this country. Prewar imports averaged more than 31,000 tons.

Spain, the major source in 1950, supplied well over half of the edible olive oil imported. Italy and Tunisia were the sources of most of the balance.

Inedible olive oil imports last year amounted to nearly 4,400 tons. Although considerably greater than in 1949, this was less than the quantity imported in 1948 and only one-fourth the prewar average. Portugal and Tunisia were the major sources of the inedible olive oil imported in 1950.

Imports of edible olive oil into this country in 1950 were substantial for several reasons, namely: (1) Production of olive oil in the Mediterranean Basin countries in 1949-50 was large; (2) European countries, traditionally the market for large quantities of olive oil, found it expedient to purchase more of other available edible oils at much lower prices; (3) prices for olive oil were attractive to United States importers; (4) importers and packers of olive oil in this country were aggressive in the last 2 years in their efforts to re-establish the United States market; and (5) the import duties on olive oil were lowered in the spring of 1950 in accordance with arrangements under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Distributors of olive oil in the United States have expanded their retail sales through chain grocery stores. The packaging and sale of oil in small containers may have been received favorably by an increasing number of consumers who previously did not purchase this more expensive oil in larger quantities.

(See accompanying table on following page)

## UNITED STATES: Edible olive oil imports, 1950 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	1947	1948	1949 1/	1950 1/
Algeria.....	126	-	217	170	62
France.....	2,432	7	27	115	983
French Morocco.....	3	1,021	4,786	1,042	133
Greece.....	2,452	271	892	36	29
Italy.....	15,766	1,884	8,319 2/	4,752	12,207
Portugal.....	183	5	110	108	89
Spain.....	8,787	2,020	3,579	2,921	22,383
Syria and Lebanon....	18	355	46	134	88
Tunisia.....	1,600	-	-	446	3,597
Turkey.....	-	-	28	272	18
Other countries.....	38	62	47	28	55
Total.....	31,405	5,625	18,051 2/	10,024	39,644

## UNITED STATES: Inedible olive oil imports, 1950 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	1947	1948	1949 1/	1950 1/
Algeria.....	3,996	-	-	-	-
France.....	51	-	-	-	4
French Morocco.....	37	3	62	22	37
Greece.....	5,505	-	2,322	14	50
Italy.....	1,868	51	2,436	1,422	181
Portugal.....	1,930	-	-	-	2,914
Spain.....	2,144	-	27	4	84
Syria and Lebanon....	134	54	16	81	84
Tunisia.....	1,975	-	-	19	1,028
Turkey.....	37	-	22	-	-
Other countries.....	47	16	2	-	-
Total.....	17,724	124	4,887	1,562	4,382

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Revised.

Compiled from official sources.



## AUSTRIA CONTINUES LOW-COST

## FAT RATIONING

The Austrian Government is rationing imported lard to replace the previously rationed European Recovery Program supplies which were exhausted in February, according to the American Legation, Vienna. This is done to continue the equitable distribution of relatively low-priced fats.

Fat rations in effect for the 76th and 77th Food Plan Periods (January 29-February 25, and February 26-March 25, 1951, respectively) were as follows:

	<u>Vienna and</u> <u>outlying areas</u>	<u>All other</u> <u>provinces</u> <u>1/</u>
	<u>i n</u>	<u>g r a m s</u>
<u>76th Food Plan Period</u>		
ERP lard	350 (0.77 lb.)	300
Compound lard and/or margarine <u>2/</u>	300 (0.66 lb.)	300
<u>77th Food Plan Period</u>		
Commercially imported lard	300	300
Compound lard and/or margarine <u>2/</u>	300	300

1/ Excluding Vorarlberg, which had sufficient supplies.

2/ Type of fat depending upon available supplies at time of purchase.

Butter and all other types of fats continue to remain on a ration-free basis.

Subsidization of imported lard at the rate of 3.40 schillings per kilogram (7.2 cents per pound) was considered necessary by the Austrian Government in order to insure an adequate supply of commercial imports. The Government also has taken steps to import quantities of oil-bearing materials sufficient to maintain conservative supplies of edible oils. Thus, with domestically-produced lard being augmented by the above, if the scheduled imports arrive without serious interruption it is hoped that the rationing of these fats again can be abolished soon.

Prior to the 76th food rationing period, rationing of fats had been effective in all but 2 of the Austrian Provinces since early in January. This was encouraged by the Austrian Government following the decision by the city administration of Vienna to establish a rationing program effective January 1, 1951 (see Foreign Crops and Markets of January 22, 1951).

Austria has received an additional \$2 million for fats under the ERP import program for this year, according to information received by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Since the money was obtained by diversion from the machinery quota, the total dollar value of the entire program has not been changed. The additional 2 million--\$1,400,000 for lard and \$600,000 for hardened soybean oil--increases the amount for fats in the program to \$4 million. All of the fats and oils will be purchased in the United States.

Substantial quantities of lard were exported to Austria from the United States in the last 4 years. The 1950 export of 15,764 tons was considerably less than the 43,238 tons exported in 1949. In 1947 and 1948 exports totaled 16,364 tons and 18,245 tons, respectively.

#### ANTARCTIC WHALING SEASON'S CATCH TOTALS 16,371 BLUE-WHALE UNITS

The total catch of baleen whales from the 1950-51 Antarctic whaling season was 16,371 blue whale units, according to a report received by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service from the International Bureau of Whaling Statistics, Sandefjord, Norway. This total is the provisional final figure as of March 9, 1951, the closing date established for the season in accordance with provisions of the International Whaling Convention (see Foreign Crops and Markets, March 5, 1951--page 263).

This season's catch was slightly above the legal maximum quota of 16,000 blue whale units. In the 1949-50 Antarctic season--December 22 to March 15-- the total catch was 15,930 units, from which an estimated 352,600 short tons of whale oil were produced. In addition, 21,733 tons of sperm oil were obtained.

The 1950-51 Antarctic season which began on December 22, 1950, lasted only 78 days, compared with 84 days in 1949-50. This was the shortest season on record since controls were established under the International Whaling Agreement signed in Washington, D. C., December 2, 1946.

#### U.K. HERRING OIL PRODUCTION IN 1950

Production of herring oil in the United Kingdom in 1950 was 3,520 short tons, according to a report from William Kling, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, London. This is an increase of about 50 percent from the 2,335 tons of 1949 and is more than 3 times the 1,100 tons produced in 1948. Of the total output in 1950, 3,277 tons were sold for first-grade edible use and 244 tons of lower grade oil were sold for manufacturing purposes.

The quantity of herring diverted for processing into oil and meal in 1950 was 40,890 tons, a substantial increase from the 26,060 tons in 1949. Thus an average oil yield of 8.6 percent was obtained from the herring processed during 1950.



An expansion program being developed under the supervision of the Herring Industry Board of the United Kingdom has been progressing slowly. The Board's long-term plans for the herring industry as a whole include the construction of 6 processing plants at the herring ports. Construction of the first plant began early in 1948 and its completion contributed to the oil production increases in 1949 and 1950. Although somewhat delayed, the second plant was expected to be in operation by this month (April). Work on the third factory has begun, and barring interruptions this plant should be ready for the autumn fishing season. Upon completion of the 3 additional factories in the program, the production potential by the end of 1951 is expected to reach about 16,800 tons of oil a year and 11,000 - 13,000 tons of meal. Ultimate production of meal through the installation of additional equipment between 1952 and 1954 is expected to be 28,000-34,000 tons.

Herring oil production in the prewar period 1934-38 probably did not amount to more than 100 to 200 tons a year. The reason for this low production was that the only factories for processing herring were situated at ports remote from the herring landings, and it was not economical to transport the herring long distances.

The chief uses of the higher grade herring oil are in the margarine and fish canning industries. The lower grade product is used for leather dressing, candle making, and in the manufacture of paint and linoleum.

#### WESTERN GERMANY MARGARINE INDUSTRY SEEKS RISE IN CEILING PRICES

The margarine industry in Western Germany has requested the Government to raise the fixed consumer prices on margarine, according to the American Consulate General, Hamburg. The average price rise requested is DM 0.40 per kilogram (U.S. 4.3 cents per pound). If granted, the ceiling price of consumption quality margarine would be DM 2.50 per kilogram (27.0 cents per pound) instead of DM 2.10 (22.7 cents). And top-quality margarine would be increased in price from DM 2.44 per kilogram (26.3 cents per pound) to between DM 2.80 (30.2 cents) and DM 3.00 (32.4 cents).

Ceiling prices, fixed in April 1948, were out of date even before the outbreak of war in Korea since which time raw material prices have risen an average of 40 percent.

The margarine industry had proposed earlier that the Government subsidize margarine so as to maintain present prices to consumers. It is unlikely, however, that such a subsidy is forthcoming because the total cost for the first year would be at least DM 25 million (U.S. \$5,950,000).

The complete abolition of price ceilings and the return to a free market adaptable to changing prices for world raw materials probably is what the industry would like best in the absence of a subsidy. The cost of margarine under this arrangement would be DM 3.00 per kilogram (32.4 cents per pound). However, since a substantial rise in margarine prices probably would bring strong protests from the labor unions, the complete abolition of price ceilings is unlikely.

Consumption of margarine in Western Germany in 1950, according to preliminary data, was 370,000 metric tons (407,850 short tons), or about 7.5 kilograms (16.5 pounds) per capita. Consumption last year was more than 50 percent greater than the 244,000 metric tons (268,960 short tons) consumed in 1949.

#### WESTERN GERMANY FEELS PINCH FROM HIGH LARD PRICES

Western Germany, which depends predominantly on imports for its supplies of fats and oils, has felt increasingly the impact of rising prices on lard since the Korean war began, according to the American Consulate General, Hamburg.

Most of the domestically-produced lard is obtained by the butchers who sell it in their own shops. Consequently, the supply is very limited and the prices are higher than for availabilities of similar quality from other countries.

The United States was the major source of the lard imported into Germany until 1928. Since then trade agreements with Poland, Denmark, Hungary and other Balkan countries brought those nations to the forefront as major suppliers.

The United States, since the end of the war, again has become the principal source of lard. However, imports from the United States in the last several months have fallen off considerably because of lack of dollars. And the problem of procuring lard from other European countries is aggravated by the fact that prices there are higher than for lard from the United States.

Exports of lard from the United States to Western Germany in 1950 totaled 63,260 short tons. This was more than one-fourth of the total lard exported and was the largest quantity going to Western Germany in any postwar year (see Foreign Crops and Markets of February 13, 1951--page 189).



INDIAN 1950 COCONUT  
PRODUCTS SITUATION 1/

India's total copra supplies during 1950 have been estimated by R. Nararyana Iyer, American Consulate General, Madras, at approximately 235,000 long tons. The major portion of India's copra is produced on the West Coast of South India where the coconut acreage is extensive. There is also copra production on a small scale in other areas.

Copra is used both for edible and for milling purposes. About 20 percent of the indigenous copra production is used for edible purposes, and the remainder for milling. Considerable quantities are milled in Bombay where there are a number of copra crushing mills.

Indian supplies of coconut oil, are derived from: (1) indigenous production and imports from abroad of coconuts and copra, and (2) imports of coconut oil as such. Of an estimated 189,000 tons of copra available for crushing in 1950, approximately 117,000 tons of oil were extracted. Adding to this about 18,000 tons of imported coconut oil, total coconut oil supplies were 135,000 tons during 1950.

Coconut oil is utilized for culinary purposes in India and also for toilet preparations. It is consumed widely in the manufacture of soaps. The quantity of coconut oil utilized for this purpose has been expanding considerably in recent years with the development of the India soap industry. Consumption of coconut oil during 1950 was distributed approximately as follows: 45 percent for edible consumption, 30 percent for toilet preparations, 20 percent for the soap industry, and 5 percent for miscellaneous uses such as illuminants and lubricants.

Actual imports of coconut products during the first 11 months of 1950, according to official data, were 1.0 million fresh nuts, 11,470 tons of copra, and 16,940 tons of coconut oil. India's exports of coconut products in 1950 were negligible, amounting to less than 1,000 fresh nuts, less than one ton of coconut oil, and no copra.

Information regarding unsold stocks of coconut products is not available. However, judging by the trend of prevailing high prices in 1950, it appears that stocks on December 31, 1950, were low in comparison with stocks at the close of the previous year. A local trade source expressed the opinion that aggregate stocks carried over to 1951 did not exceed 1,000 to 1,500 tons of coconut oil, inclusive of unsold stocks.

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1/ A more extensive statement will soon be available as a Foreign Agriculture Circular published by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

Wholesale prices of coconuts, copra, and coconut oil on the Cochin Market, South India, during 1950, according to the Indian Central Coconut Committee, (I.C.C.C.) were as follows:

1950	Coconuts per 1,000 nuts			Copra per long ton			Coconut oil per long ton		
	Month	Rupees	Dollars	Month	Rupees	Dollars	Month	Rupees	Dollars
12-month average	--	194-2	\$40.67	--	1498-15	\$314.03	--	2235-13	\$468.40
Highest monthly									
average.....	Feb.	220-2	46.12	Dec.	1641-13	343.96	Dec.	2443-2-9	511.84
Lowest monthly									
average.....	July	179-2	37.53	Apr.	1373-13	287.80	Mar.	2091-3	438.10

On the Bombay market, at the end of February 1951, coconut oil was quoted between Rs. 32-6 and Rs. 32-12 per maund of 28 pounds, ex-warehouse, Bombay. This is equivalent to 24.2 cents and 24.5 cents per pound, respectively. A Calcutta trade source estimated wholesale prices at the end of February 1951, at about 10 percent higher than the average prices prevailing in 1950, and the 1950 prices were considerably above those of 1949. At Calcutta, during January 1951, Colombo quality coconut oil sold at Rs. 107-10-8 per maund of 82 pounds (27.4 cents per pound).

The I.C.C.C. is attempting to increase coconut production by conducting 4 regional research stations, 3 in Travancore-Cochin State and one in Orissa. These stations render scientific advice to growers on methods to control coconut-tree disease and increase yield per acre. Nursery stations operating in India annually raise about 500,000 quality seedlings which are made available to growers at 8 annas (10 cents) each. Additional nurseries are being authorized by I.C.C.C. in other coconut areas where there is a demand for quality seedlings. This should affect favorably the outlook for increased production of coconuts.

To be assured of a source for imports of copra and coconut oil, India entered into a trade agreement with Indonesia which became effective November 1, 1950, and expires June 30, 1951. India is to receive 5,000 tons of copra and 2,000 tons of coconut oil. Agreement for additional supplies in 1951 from Ceylon and Malaya will help to narrow the deficit between domestic production and consumption.

#### BRITISH HONDURAS COCONUT OUTPUT REDUCED IN 1950

The production of coconuts in British Honduras during 1950 has been estimated at only 3.0 million nuts, states E. B. Waseman, American Consulate, Belize. This represents a reduction of 50 percent from the average annual output of approximately 6.0 million nuts. During 1949 a total of 6.5 million nuts was produced.



Local coconut buyers state that the 1950 crop of coconuts was the worst in the Colony's history and based their statement on the following: (1) an extremely dry season in 1948 followed by the Colony's most severe drought during 1949, reflecting considerable loss in the 1950 production, (2) light hurricanes and high winds which retarded the formation of nuts and (3) considerable spread of the coconut disease, known locally as "Red Ring". The average yield per tree in 1950 was 40 nuts. Normally, uncultivated trees yield an average of 50 to 60 nuts whereas coconut plantations report yields of 90 to 100 nuts per tree.

Exports of coconuts from British Honduras in 1950 totaled 1,035,900 nuts of which 645,900 were sent to the United States. In 1949 slightly over 1,807,000 nuts were exported, of which the United States took 85 percent. During that year no copra was shipped out of the Colony because local manufacturers wanted the limited supply available. However, in 1950, about 76 tons of copra were exported to Panama. Local utilization of copra for the manufacture of laundry soap totaled 157 tons in 1950.

Prices obtained by local planters for select coconuts averaged \$40-British Honduran Currency- per thousand (\$28 U.S. dollars), whereas export prices averaged from \$75 to \$80 (\$53-\$56).

Coconut buyers think that local production in 1951 may exceed 4.0 million nuts. A further increase should come about in future years, since local planters, finding that coconuts are easily grown, are continuing to plant new trees.

#### U.S. CASTOR OIL IMPORTS INCREASED IN 1950; BEAN IMPORTS DECREASED

The United States imported a record volume of 23,295 short tons of castor oil during 1950. This volume, of which 97 percent came from Brazil, was more than 4 times as large as in 1949. Castor bean imports in 1950 totaled 131,114 tons, about 10 percent less than in 1949 though twice the average tonnage in prewar years. Two-thirds of the 1950 total came from Brazil. Total arrivals of beans and oil in terms of beans amounted to 182,880 tons, an increase of one-sixth from 1949.

India was the principal source of United States castor bean imports prior to 1934; but since then Brazil has taken first place. No beans were imported from India from 1937 through 1939 and from 1944 until 1950 when the volume received amounted to 28,026 tons.

(See accompanying table on following page)



## UNITED STATES: Castor bean imports, 1950 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	1947	1948	1949 1/	1950 1/
North America:					
El Salvador.....	-	448	86	114	174
Haiti.....	133	3,304	2,896	2,743	3,148
Other.....	11	46	7	15	9
Total.....	144	3,798	2,989	2,872	3,331
South America:					
Argentina.....	269	-	-	-	-
Brazil.....	61,456	133,208	144,648	137,912	88,049
Ecuador.....	6	1,217	2,571	2,319	4,302
Total.....	61,731	134,425	147,219	140,231	92,351
Europe.....	-	-	7	1	-
Asia:					
China.....	112	-	-	-	1,253
India.....	1,960	-	-	-	28,026
Other.....	2,488	180	1,040	1,395	1,409
Total.....	4,560	180	1,040	1,395	30,688
Africa.....	27	-	-	469 2/	4,744
Grand total.....	66,462	138,403	151,255	144,968	131,114

## UNITED STATES: Castor oil imports, 1950 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	1947	1948	1949 1/	1950 1/
North America.....	-	172	-	10	9
South America:					
Argentina.....	-	329	-	-	11
Brazil.....	-	2,304	1,120	5,273	22,711
Paraguay.....	-	33	-	17	103
Uruguay.....	-	-	-	-	72
Total.....	-	2,666	1,120	5,290	22,897
Europe.....	71	-	-	-	-
Asia:					
India.....	-	-	-	-	294
Thailand.....	-	249	100	9	95
Other.....	42	211	-	-	-
Total.....	42	460	100	9	389
Grand total.....	113	3,298	1,220	5,309	23,295

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes 4,523 tons from Angola

Compiled from official sources.

Castor oil imports into the United States were relatively small until the last 2 years. A reduction in the United States import duty on castor oil, effective July 31, 1948, probably stimulated imports. Furthermore, imports from Brazil increased following the Brazilian Government's authorization in 1950 to export castor oil under barter transactions. Castor oil, a strategic commodity, is a stockpile item in this country.

#### URUGUAY EXPECTS ABOVE-AVERAGE SUNFLOWER, PEANUT HARVESTS

Uruguay's 1950-51 sunflower seed and peanut harvests are expected to be considerably larger than those of the previous season, reports Dale E. Farringer, Agriculture Attache, American Embassy, Montevideo. Preliminary estimates place the sunflower seed crop at approximately 57,770 short tons from 258,990 planted acres compared with the final official 1949-50 figures of 46,250 tons from 249,119 planted acres (183,887 harvested). During the 1940-44 period Uruguay produced on the average about 30,500 tons of sunflower seed.

This season's peanut crop is estimated at 5,050 tons from 18,870 acres (planted) against 4,460 tons from 21,670 acres (17,980 harvested) in 1949-50. Peanut production during 1940-44 averaged 3,050 tons.

To move into export channels 1,516 tons of sunflower oil (carry-over from the 1949-50 crop) the Uruguayan Executive Power authorized the extension of time provided for in a decree dated October 31, 1950, which permitted the export of 7,700 tons of edible oils before February 28, 1951. The new decree, dated February 26, 1951, extends the export period to May 15, 1951, for transactions made before January 31, 1951. By this action all sunflower seed oil stocks remaining from the last crop, not to be retained for domestic consumption, will move into export channels.

#### INDIA IMPOSES PEANUT EXPORT DUTY, BANS PEANUT EXPORTS

Effective March 1, 1951, the Government of India imposed an export duty of 8 rupees (\$16.80) per long ton on exports of peanuts, reports R. Narayana Iyer, American Consulate General, Madras. As of February 24, exports of peanuts and peanut oil have been banned to countries other than those with which India has entered into special agreements. The latter action was taken after the Government further reviewed India's position regarding the export of peanuts and peanut oil in the light of shipments already made within the over-all export quota.



Regarding local reaction to the imposition of the export duty on peanuts, one trade source stated that the imposition of duty had "no effect at all in the market, especially after the ban on further exports. Probably from Bombay Coast alone some small quantities of groundnut kernels H.P.S. (hand picked selected) may remain unshipped to Switzerland, and these quantities alone will be affected by the new export duty."

#### THAILAND'S VEGETABLE OILSEED AND OIL SITUATION

Thailand's oil-producing crops include coconuts--the most important--peanuts, soybeans, cottonseed, sesame seed, and castor beans, according to Graham S. Quate, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Bangkok. It is estimated that between 3 and 5 million coconut trees are in bearing throughout the country, including innumerable small stands. Commercial plantings are confined principally to the southern and southeastern sections of the Kingdom, including a few islands in the Gulk of Siam. Yields per tree are estimated at from 50 to 60 nuts per year, giving a total annual production of from 200 to 300 million nuts. A considerable part of this crop is used for the production of fresh coconut meat, a popular ingredient in many Siamese dishes, and for the milk only--in which case the meat is not utilized.

Total production of coconut oil expressed from sun-dried copra during 1950 is estimated at about 10,000 short tons--probably no increase since 1948.

Export permits for 1,000 tons of coconut oil were issued during the year, though a larger volume of exports may have been made. Local consumption of coconut oil during 1950 is believed to have amounted to about 9,000 tons. This oil is used principally for soap making.

Peanut acreage reportedly is increasing. Area and production in 1950 are estimated at 16,000 acres and 7,000 tons of shelled nuts. About 6,000 tons were crushed, giving in oil yield of 2,400 tons. Apparently all peanut oil is consumed locally, also for soap making.

The 1950 soybean harvest is estimated at 12,000 tons (400,000 bushels) from 30,000 acres. A large part of the crop was used for oil production. Exports were reported, officially, to have increased slightly from 1949, but specific quantities were not reported.

Cottonseed output in 1950 is placed at 2,000 tons. This was used entirely within the country for oil production.

Sesame seed production appears to be declining slightly. During the past year about 1,750 tons were harvested from 7,000 acres. The seed was crushed for edible oil.



Castor bean production is almost negligible. Most of the plants are grown on small scattered plots or in a semi-wild condition.

Oilseed prices on local markets in February 1951 were quoted as follows:

<u>Oilseed</u>	<u>Baht per picul</u>	<u>U. S. dollars per short ton</u>
Copra	315	225
Soybeans	175	125
Peanuts-shelled	215	154
Castor beans	260	186

#### TUNISIA REPORTS REDUCED OLIVE OIL OUTPUT

Tunisian olive oil production during the 1950-51 season is now estimated officially at about 44,100 short tons and by trade sources at 38,600 tons, according to M. E. Jeneid, American Consulate General, Tunis. In addition about 3,300 tons of olive foots oil were produced.

On the basis of the official estimate, current production is 115 percent of the 1941-45 average but only 38 percent of the 1949-50 record output of 115,700 tons (revised).

Unfavorable weather and some moth damage were responsible for the reduced yield this season. Production, however, is expected to cover domestic consumption needs--about 33,000 tons--and leave a small export surplus of some 15,000 tons.

The first imports of edible oils into Tunisia since 1948 were made at the end of January 1951 when an initial consignment of 55 tons of French colonial peanut oil was received. By mid-March an estimated 386 tons had been received.

Exports of new-crop edible olive oil by March 1, 1951, are estimated at 7,165 tons, but a steady decline in shipments is noted. Total exports during the record 1949-50 season ending November 30, 1950, were reported at 84,746 tons, of which 3,973 tons went to the United States.

The most spectacular feature of the present season has been the rise in prices. "Surfine" oil at Sfax opened on November 1, 1950, at an average price of 17,650 francs per 100 kilograms (22.9 cents per pound), climbed to 21,000 (27.2 cents) by November 18, passed 24,000 (31.1 cents) on December 29, 26,000 (33.7 cents) on February 1, and reached a peak of 33,000 (42.8 cents) on March 1. After that, some reaction was noted and the price fell to about 31,000 francs (40.2 cents) by March 13.

As officially announced on November 24, 1950, the unrestricted trade regime effective in 1949-50 remains in effect for the present season. As a consequence there are no restrictions of any kind on the manufacture, sale, or exportation of olive oil, and prices are settled freely between buyer and seller.

Government circles look to the imports of peanut oil to allay the protests against rising olive oil prices. Imported peanut oil as of mid-March was being retailed at 240 francs per liter (34.6 cents per pound), or much cheaper than olive oil, but the quantity imported by the middle of March was considered inadequate. Arab consumers, however, reportedly prefer olive oil, even of the lower grades.

### LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

#### CATTLE NUMBERS IN DENMARK INCREASE

Danish cattle numbers were reported on December 30, 1950 at 2,974,000 head, an increase of about 3 percent compared with the number a year ago but 10 percent lower than in 1939. The number of milk cows, however, was only 3 to 4 percent below the prewar number.

The number of heifers and calves increased by 13,000 and 61,000 head, respectively, from the previous year indicating a further increase in cattle this year.

DENMARK: Cattle numbers on December 30, 1950,  
with comparisons

Classification	1939	1947 1/	1948 1/	1949 1/	1950 1/
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Bulls, 1 year and over...	68	37	38	37	34
Bullocks, 1 year and over..	66	34	38	34	31
Cows and heifers that have calved.....	1,656	1,410	1,473	1,566	1,586
Heifers, 1 year and over..	602	524	543	549	562
Calves under 1 year.....	860	663	659	700	761
Total cattle.....	3,252	2,668	2,751	2,886	2,974

1/ Includes cattle in towns, which totaled 50,000 head in 1946.

Compiled from official sources.

## SOUTH AFRICAN WOOL EXPORTS UP

Declared wool exports to the United States in February 1951 from the Union of South Africa amounted to approximately 6 million pounds actual weight compared to only 1.5 million pounds in February 1950, and slightly over 6 million pounds in the preceding month this year. Shipments to the United States for the season July through February amounted to about 26 million pounds compared with about 21 million pounds for the corresponding period in the previous season.

The United Kingdom is the chief destination of South African wools this season, followed by France, United States, Germany, Belgium and Italy. Total movement from South Africa through December amounted to 105 million pounds compared to 90 million in the period July through December 1949.

## COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

### MOZAMBIQUE COTTON CROP REPORTED ABOVE 1949-50

The 1950-51 cotton crop in the Portuguese East African colony of Mozambique is reported to be somewhat larger than the relatively poor crop of 1949-50, according to D.J. Soares-Rebello, American Consulate, Lourenco Marques. The current crop, estimated at 110,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), is 36 percent above the 81,000 bales produced in the preceding season. The area planted to cotton, on the other hand, decreased from more than 750,000 acres in 1949-50 to around 700,000 acres in the current season. Yields are expected to improve over 1949-50 when various factors, including unseasonably low temperatures and precipitation, a severe cyclone and an infestation of grasshoppers, combined to cause serious damage to the crop. The entire production is of the American Upland type, similar to the bulk of the United States crop.

Considerable effort has been made by the Government of Portugal to increase the production of cotton in Mozambique. Since 1938, production of cotton in the colony has been carried on by 11 concessionaires, each of whom has control over a portion of the cotton areas in the country. All except one of the concessionaires are controlled by Portuguese capital and have their headquarters in Lisbon. The native farmers within the "concessionaire belts," each of whom is required to plant cotton, average about 2 1/2 acres of cotton per farm. The concessionaire has several responsibilities in the production of the crop. These include supplying seed as well as adequate medical assistance to the natives, and purchasing, ginning and selling the crop for export.



Prices paid for cotton at each step in the marketing system are set by the Portuguese Government through its agent, the Cotton Export Control Board, in consultation with the concessionaires. These prices tend to be far below prevailing world prices. For example, on January 1, 1951, the price of medium grade cotton from Mozambique at the mills in Portugal was 22 cents a pound, about half the price of American cotton.

Mozambique is the largest single source of supply for the Portuguese cotton textile industry, the entire crop from this colony being exported to Portugal. Mozambique cotton accounted for more than three-fourths of the total consumption in Portugal in 1950. During a normal crop year, Mozambique, along with Angola, supply about 90 percent of the total requirements for raw cotton in Portugal. In 1950, as much as 94 percent of total requirements were met by these 2 colonies compared with only 10 percent in 1932. The Government of Portugal hopes eventually to obtain sufficient raw cotton from these African colonies to meet all its needs, particularly since this supply can be obtained at a price far below the average world price.

(Table on Cotton-Price Quotations on Page 398)

#### TOBACCO AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS

(Continued from Page 376)

#### COLOMBIA'S 1950 COFFEE EXPORTS AND 1950-51 COFFEE PRODUCTION LOWER

Colombia's 1950 coffee exports fell about 17 percent below the quantity exported in 1949, but, because of higher coffee prices, the value of the 1950 exports reached a record high. The 1950-51 coffee production now is forecast at about 5 percent below the 1949-50 output, according to H. B. Pangburn of the American Embassy in Bogota.

Colombia in 1950 exported a total of 4,472,000 bags of coffee valued at \$307,351,000. This compares with exports of 5,410,000 bags valued at \$242,276,000 in 1949, 5,562,000 bags valued at \$225,211,000 in 1948, and a prewar (1935-39) annual average of 3,965,000 bags valued at around \$51,000,000.

About 91 percent or 4,052,000 bags of Colombia's coffee exports went to the United States in 1950. Germany was in second place with 147,000 bags, followed by Canada with 119,000 bags. In 1949, Canada was the second most important destination for Colombia's coffee exports. Shipments to Canada in 1949 amounted to 199,000 bags compared with only 49,000 bags to Germany. While Colombia's coffee exports to Germany reached a postwar peak in 1950, they were still far below the prewar annual average of 589,000 bags. Other important markets for Colombia's 1950 coffee exports were Sweden, Belgium, The Netherlands, and Switzerland.

Colombia: Exports of green coffee, 1950 with comparisons 1/

Destination	Average 1935-39	1948	1949	1950 <u>2/</u>
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
<u>America</u>				
United States.....	3,070:	5,215:	4,888:	4,052
Canada.....	127:	180:	199:	119
Other.....	5:	6:	15:	1
Total.....	3,202:	5,401:	5,102:	4,172
<u>Europe</u>				
Belgium.....	5:	35:	52:	31
Germany.....	589:	-	49:	147
Netherlands.....	34:	6:	8:	23
Sweden.....	25:	6:	47:	50
Switzerland.....	-	14:	44:	20
Other.....	94:	99:	107:	26
Total.....	747:	160:	307:	297
Other countries.....	16:	1:	1:	3
Grand total.....	3,965:	5,562:	5,410:	4,472
Value.....	\$51,000,000:	225,210,814:	242,276,072:	307,351,410

1/ Bags of 132.28 lbs.      2/ Preliminary.

Colombia's 1950-51 coffee production now is expected to total about 5,540,000 bags, which would provide about 540,000 bags for domestic consumption and 5,000,000 bags for export to foreign markets. The year-end harvest has been completed. It is estimated at 2,500,000 bags for export, about 20 percent below normal. The quality of the coffee from this harvest is below average because of excessive rain during the growing period. The mid-year crop, to be harvested from April to June 1951, is expected to provide about 2,500,000 bags of coffee for export, slightly more than usual. Colombia's 1948-49 exportable coffee production amounted to 5,600,000 bags, consisting of 3,200,000 bags from the year-end harvest and 2,400,000 bags from the mid-year harvest. In 1949-50, unfavorable weather reduced the exportable production to around 5,250,000 bags, comprised of 3,250,000 bags from the year-end harvest and 2,000,000 bags from the mid-year harvest.

INDONESIA'S 1950 TEA PRODUCTION  
AND EXPORTS HIGHER

Indonesia's 1950 tea production reached a postwar peak of 74.1 million pounds, according to W. B. Kelly, American Embassy, Djakarta. This is substantially higher than the 1949 output of 59.9 million pounds and nearly triple the 1948 outturn of 27.8 million pounds, but less than half as large as the prewar (1935-39) annual average production of 170.1 million pounds.

Growers and brokers attribute the 1950 increase to higher tea prices obtainable during the latter half of the year. Producing areas were extended, and estates in production totaled 193 by the end of 1950 compared with 180 at the beginning of the year. If prices hold up, it is forecast that the 1951 production will amount to at least 77 million pounds, consisting of 53.5 million pounds from estates and 23.5 million pounds from small holders' tea gardens.

Exports of tea from Indonesia in 1950 totaled approximately 70.0 million pounds, compared with 52.2 million pounds in 1949, 18.6 million pounds in 1948, and prewar annual average exports of 153.2 million pounds. Leading destinations in 1950 were the Netherlands, Egypt and Egyptian Sudan, the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom.



## COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

(Continued from page 395)

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS  
ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on world markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, U.S. gulf-port average, and taxes incident to exports

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1951	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound	
					Spot quo- tation	Export and inter- mediate taxes
<u>Alexandria</u>		: Kantar				
Ashmouni, Good.....	3-29	: 99.05 lbs.	: Tallari	: 117.10	: 67.88	: 11.83
Ashmouni, FGF.....	"	: "	: "	: 103.10	: 59.76	: 11.83
Karnak, Good.....	"	: "	: "	: (not legible)		
Karnak, FGF.....	"	: "	: "	: 149.00	: 86.37	: 11.83
<u>Bombay</u>		: Candy				
Jarila, Fine.....	"	: 784 lbs.	: Rupee	: 1/ 770.00	: 20.50	: 21.30
Broach Vijay, Fine....	"	: "	: "	: 1/ 840.00	: 22.36	: 21.30
<u>Karachi</u>		: Maund				
4F Punjab, SG, Fine....	3-28	: 82.28 lbs.	: "	: 145.50	: 53.35	: 23.09
289F Sind, SG, Fine....	"	: "	: "	: 153.00	: 56.10	: 23.09
289F Punjab, SG, Fine..	"	: "	: "	: 175.00	: 64.16	: 23.09
<u>Buenos Aires</u>		: Metric ton				
Type B.....	3-29	: 2204.6 lbs.	: Peso	: 8525.00	: 77.34	: 7.36
<u>Lima</u>		: Sp. quintal				
Tanguis, Type 3-1/2....	3-27	: 101.4 lbs.	: Sol	: 2/ 815.00	: 53.76	: 31.43
Tanguis, Type 5.....	"	: "	: "	: (not quoted)		
Pima, Type 1.....	"	: "	: "	: (not quoted)		
<u>Recife</u>		: Arroba				
Mata, Type 4.....	3-29	: 33.07 lbs.	: Cruzeiro	: 3/ 400.00	: 65.81	: 2.4% ad
Sertao, Type 5.....	"	: "	: "	: (not available)		: valorem
Sertao, Type 4.....	"	: "	: "	: 3/ 420.00	: 69.10	: " "
<u>Sao Paulo</u>		: "				
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	"	: "	: "	: 420.00	: 69.10	: 3.0% ad
<u>Torreón</u>		: Sp. quintal				: valorem
Middling, 15/16".....	"	: 101.4 lbs.	: Peso	: 545.00	: 62.13	: 12.07
<u>Houston-Galveston-New Orleans</u>		: Pound	: Cent	: XXXXX	: 44.86	: ----

Quotations of foreign markets and taxes reported by cable from U. S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Ceiling price.

2/ For future delivery to local mills.

3/ Nominal.

